

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

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SUBJECT: LABOR STILL LACKS ALLIES NEEDED TO BRING DOWN
NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: OSLO 1798

BEGIN SUMMARY. HELGE SEIP, LEADER OF THE NEW PEOPLE'S PARTY, HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS PARTY IS NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN BRINGING DOWN THE PRESENT COALITION GOVT UNLESS SOME IMPORTANT ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE ARISES ON WHICH HIS PARTY DISAGREES WITH A GOVT PROPOSAL. THIS MEANS THAT THE LABOR PARTY, WHERE INTEREST IN BRINGING DOWN THE GOVT APPEARS TO HAVE INCREASED, WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO FIND THE SUPPORT IT NEEDS FOR DOING SO. WITH THE STORTING (PARLIAMENT) SET TO ADJOURN ON JUNE 8, IT THUS SEEMS INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT THE CABINET HEADED BY LARS KORVALD WILL REMAIN IN POWER THROUGH THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NEW PEOPLE'S PARTY (DNF) WILL NOT RPT NOT ACTIVELY SEEK TO BRING DOWN THE MINORITY COALITION GOVT LED BY
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LARS KORVALD, IT WAS MADE CLEAR AT THE DNF NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD MAY 11-13. DNF LEADER HELGE SEIP DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HIS PARTY'S GROUP IN THE STORTING COULD VOTE AGAINST THE GOVT ON A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE. BUT DNF SPOKESMEN HAVE SAID IN RECENT DAYS THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO ENTER THE FALL ELECTION CAMPAIGN WITH AN OBLIGATION TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY HELPED BRING DOWN THE GOVT. IF KORVALD IS TO BE VOTED OUT, THEY FEEL, IT MUST BE ON A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WHICH THE VOTERS WILL READILY UNDERSTAND.

2. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, INTEREST WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY IN BRINGING DOWN THE KORVALD GOVT APPEARS TO BE GROWING, BUT LABOR CANNOT ACCOMPLISH THIS WITHOUT HELP FROM SOME OTHER PARTY. NOW THAT BOTH THE CONSERVATIVES AND THE DNF HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT SUCH A MOVE, THE PROGNOSIS FOR THE KORVALD GOVT'S SURVIVAL THROUGH SEPTEMBER LOOKS FAIRLY GOOD.

3. THERE ARE SEVERAL POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT ITEMS ON WHICH THE STORTING MUST ACT BETWEEN NOW AND THE SCHEDULED ADJOURNMENT ON JUNE 8. BUT THE KORVALD GOVT HAS DEMONSTRATED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS THAT IT PUTS SURVIVAL BEFORE PRIDE. IF FACED WITH PARLIAMENTARY DEFEAT ON ONE OF ITS PROPOSALS, THE GOVT MAY WELL BOW TO THE STORTING MAJORITY ON THAT ISSUE WITHOUT REGARDING IT AS A QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE. CROWE

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